

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

- 1-15. (Cancelled)
16. (Currently Amended) A method for facilitating the transmission of a facsimile document to a recipient, the method comprising:
 - a. utilizing a computer for electronically defining a Gateway domain name for one or more Zones in an H 323 network, each Zone comprising a set of one or more Gateways;
 - b. obtaining by utilizing the computer, from a Gatekeeper associated with the H 323 network, utilization data concerning one or more Gateways in one or more of the Zones; and
 - c. generating a lookup table by utilizing the computer, the lookup table electronically stored on a computer and comprising a Gateway domain name for one or more of the Zones, the utilization data with respect to one or more of the Gateways in the Zones obtained from the Gatekeeper, and an IP address for one or more of the Gateways in the Zones.
17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising formatting the facsimile document in a format suitable for transmission as an attachment to an electronic mail message.
18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein formatting includes formatting the facsimile document as a TIF attachment.
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein obtaining the utilization data includes querying the Gatekeeper periodically for the data.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein querying the Gatekeeper includes querying every minute.

21. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the lookup table is maintained at a facsimile mail server.

22. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the lookup table is maintained at the Gatekeeper.

23. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

- a. determining, by reference to a telephone number of the recipient in an electronic mail message address, a Gateway domain name associated with a Zone from which the facsimile document will be transmitted over a conventional telephone network to the recipient; and
- b. selecting from the lookup table an IP address of a Gateway, from among the set of Gateways in the Zone associated with the Gateway domain name determined, whose utilization is lowest.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein determining the Gateway domain name associated with the Zone from which the facsimile document will be transmitted over the conventional telephone network to the recipient includes determining the name by reference to an area code portion of the telephone number of the recipient.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein determining the Gateway domain name associated with the Zone from which the facsimile document will be transmitted over the conventional telephone network to the recipient includes determining the name by reference to an area code portion of the telephone number of the recipient for some area codes, and to a combination of an area code portion and an exchange portion of the telephone number of the recipient for other area codes.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein determining the Gateway domain name associated with the Zone from which the facsimile document will be transmitted over the conventional telephone network to the recipient includes determining the name by reference to an area code portion and an exchange portion of the telephone number of the recipient.

27-42. (Cancelled)

43. (Currently Amended) A computing system for facilitating the transmission of a facsimile document to a recipient, comprising configured to:

- a. ~~means for defining~~ generate a Gateway domain name for one or more Zones in an H 323 network, each Zone comprising a set of one or more Gateways;
- b. ~~means for obtaining~~ obtain, from a Gatekeeper associated with the H 323 network, utilization data concerning one or more Gateways in one or more of the Zones; and
- c. ~~means for generating~~ generate a lookup table comprising a Gateway domain name for one or more of the Zones, the utilization data with respect to one or more of the Gateways in the Zones obtained from the Gatekeeper, and an IP address for one or more of the Gateways in the Zones.

44. (Currently Amended) The computing system of claim 43, further comprising means for formatting configured to format the facsimile document in a format suitable for its transmission as an attachment to an electronic mail message.

45. (Currently Amended) The computing system of claim 44, wherein the means for formatting includes means for formatting further configured to format the facsimile document as a TIF attachment.

46. (Currently Amended) The computing system of claim 43, wherein the means for obtaining the utilization data includes means for querying further configured to query the Gatekeeper periodically for the data.

47. (Currently Amended) The computing system of claim 46, ~~wherein the means for querying further configured to query~~ the Gatekeeper ~~includes means for querying~~ every minute.

48. (Currently Amended) The computing system of claim 43, ~~wherein~~ further configured to maintain the lookup table ~~is maintained~~ at a facsimile mail server.

49. (Currently Amended) The computing system of claim 43, ~~wherein~~ further configured to maintain the lookup table ~~is maintained~~ at the Gatekeeper.

50. (Currently Amended) The computing system of claim 43, further configured to comprising:

- a. ~~means for determining~~ determine, by reference to a telephone number of the recipient in an electronic mail message address, a Gateway domain name associated with a Zone from which the facsimile document will be transmitted over a conventional telephone network to the recipient; and
- b. ~~means for selecting~~ select from the lookup table an IP address of a Gateway, from among the set of Gateways in the Zone associated with the Gateway domain name determined, whose utilization is lowest.

51. (Currently Amended) The computing system of claim 50, ~~wherein the means for determining the Gateway domain name associated with the Zone from which the facsimile document will be transmitted over the conventional telephone network to the recipient includes~~ means for determining further configured to determine the name by reference to an area code portion of the telephone number of the recipient.

52. (Currently Amended) The computing system of claim 50, ~~wherein the means for determining the Gateway domain name associated with the Zone from which the facsimile document will be transmitted over the conventional telephone network to the recipient includes~~ means for determining further configured to determine the name by reference to an area code

portion of the telephone number of the recipient for some area codes, and to a combination of an area code portion and an exchange portion of the telephone number of the recipient for other area codes.

53. (Currently Amended) The computing system of claim 50, ~~wherein the means for determining the Gateway domain name associated with the Zone from which the facsimile document will be transmitted over the conventional telephone network to the recipient includes means for determining~~ further configured to determine the name by reference to an area code portion and an exchange portion of the telephone number of the recipient.

54. (Cancelled)